

STAT STATEMENT BY [ ] CIA, SAFE TECHNICIAN

Sometime in September 1969, [ ] received approximately 130 Hillside Class VI filing cabinets. It is my responsibility to inspect these units before putting them in stock for subsequent issue. Upon my inspecting a number of these units, I determined that a lot of them were very shoddy in construction: locks were loose; there were sharp edges on the drawers and cabinet structures; many sharp edges on weldments; and the metal cover latch scraped the latch hole and developed jagged metal burrs. It was also noted that these cabinets did not meet the specifications of AA-F-358e Int. Specifically, I took exception to the fact that it was possible to secure the lock drawer with any other drawer open three inches or less from the fully closed position. Also, drawer pulls were loose, latches were not installed properly, and the drawer metal covers were in a partially open condition when the drawer began its opening cycle prior to depressing of the latch.

Since all of the aforementioned problems were of major concern, it was apparent that I had to have help from the Office of Security, Technical Branch (OS/TB). Mr. [ ] and Mr. [ ] of the OS/TB inspected some of the Class VI cabinets at the depot and agreed that action must be taken by our Agency to get GSA to take back all of the 130 units and return them to Hillside Metal Products for repair, etc. Through the remainder of 1969 and early 1970, various efforts were made to correct the problem with Hillside. Sometime in early 1970 the Safemasters Company was contracted by Hillside to correct deficiencies we had cited. Safemasters Company only repaired and tried to correct those deficiencies that GSA instructed them to, and this left many faults uncorrected. After inspecting the repairs made by the Safemasters Company, I was still not satisfied that the cabinets would stand up under field operating conditions and so informed Mr. Brown, Quality Control GSA representative through their Unit at Crystal City in Arlington, Va. I was told that the repairs made by Safemasters Company were all of the repairs that were going to be made, and that everyone else; DOD, Navy, Army, etc. were accepting the cabinets (as modified). I still insisted that they were inferior in construction and would not meet our requirements. Furthermore, I learned it was practically impossible to procure any spare parts for these units. Since our Procurement Division told me that the Agency was going to accept

these units as is, I again turned to our OS/TB and they put me in touch with a Mr. Klekner, Physical Security Branch, Office of the Provost Marshall General, on April 1970, at the Pentagon to discuss these Hillside Class VI cabinets. On the morning of 8 April 1970, I received a phone call from Chief, Materiel Facilities Branch, [redacted] telling me that "forget the meeting at the Pentagon with DOD, it had been cancelled."

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As a means to clarify certain statements (Attachment 3) made by Mr. [ ] the undersigned contacted Mr. [ ] by phone on 5 October 1978. The following represents a recap of his comments.

(a) Original Statement

"Since our Procurement Division told me that the Agency was going to accept these units --."

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It is Mr. [ ] recollection that, after months of effort with all the parties involved to reject the safes, the supply system found itself without safes to issue. Under the "low bidder" concept, any attempt to order additional safes through GSA would result in the delivery of additional Hillside safes. Therefore, to meet existing needs the system had no choice but to accept and issue the Hillside units.

(b) Original Statement

STAT "I received a phone call from Chief, Materiel Facilities Branch, [ ] telling me 'to forget the meeting at the Pentagon with DOD, it had been cancelled'."

STAT It is Mr. [ ] recollection that the Chief, MFB was then Mr. [ ] who retired some four or five years ago and is not now in the immediate area.

STAT Mr. [ ] stated that he did not wish to imply that the meeting was cancelled under questionable circumstances. He merely wished to state that it was cancelled for reasons that he is unaware. He stated that at the time he accepted the cancellation as one of those things, i.e., conflict with other meetings, illness or possibly a security issue.

[ ]  
Chief, Supply Division, OL